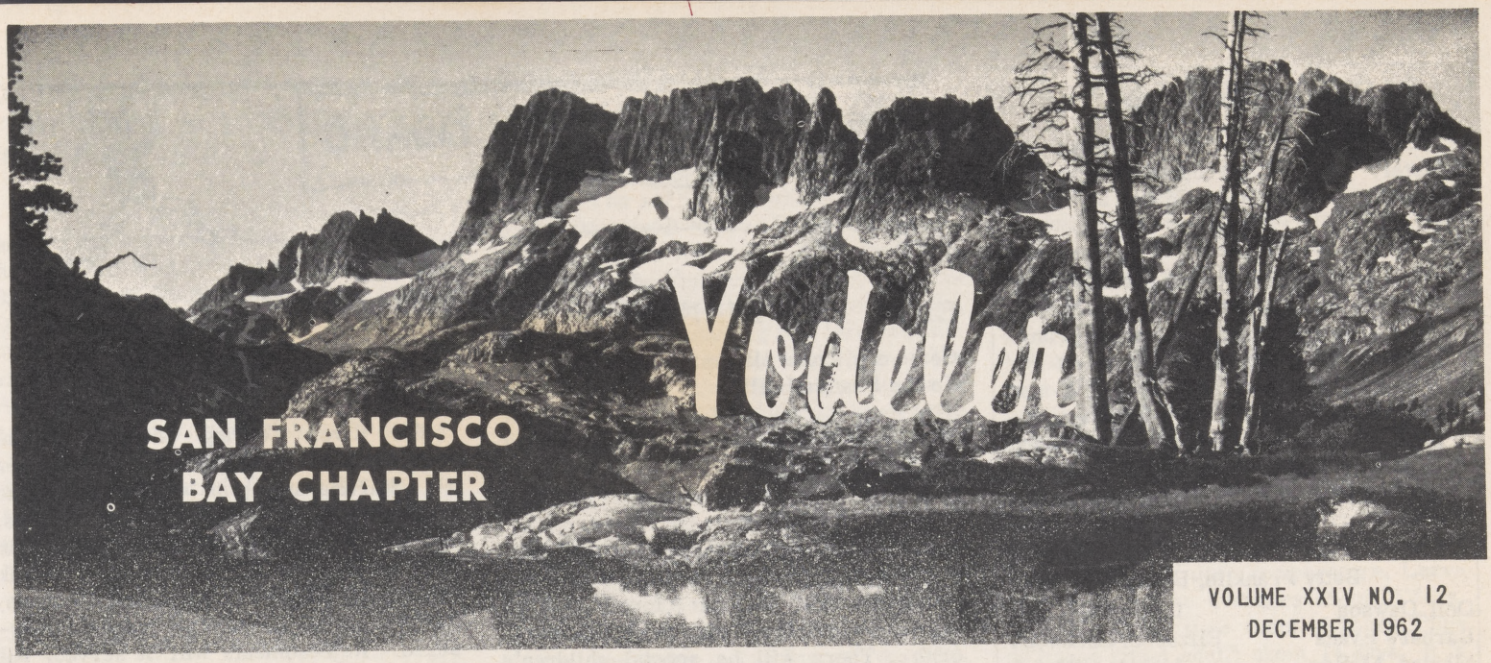

VOLUME XXIV NO. 12
DECEMBER 1962

SHORELINE HIGHWAY -- GOING . . . GOING?

On Thursday, November 29, the California State Highway Commission will hold a public hearing in Mill Valley on the location of the proposed "improved" Shoreline Highway, State Route 1, between the Golden Gate Bridge and Olema. It is emphasized that the hearing is solely on "picking a route," which seems a subtle way of saying that we might as well give up opposition to this project, all we can do is decide on a route for it!

The Highway Department held open house in Tam Valley school on November 14 to display maps and photographs on the proposal. There is no need to tell Yodelereaders the devastating effect of cutting a four-lane highway along the Marin coastal bluffs, but we can add a few details. The engineering section on display showed not an inch of the map free from cut or fill along the coastal section, divorcing the road completely from the intimate connection with the wild country it now passes through. A long fill, right across Muir Valley and just behind the lagoon, would cut that attractive little valley in half, except for an underpass. High fills are planned across the mouths of the deep little canyons where Cold Spring and Lone Tree Creeks come down to the sea, thus spoiling some of the finest views from both the road and the hills above. The Highway official in charge admitted that bridges would be much more scenic, and quite feasible, in all these places but, said he, "We must have somewhere to put the rock from the cuts."

The present week day use of Shoreline Highway, by Highway Department figures, is only 700 cars on week days, 1200 or 1500 on Sundays. Their traffic projections have use of the Golden Gate Bridge rising from the present 10,000 daily to 30,000 in 1980, but increasing on Shoreline Highway from 700 to 10,000 a day. There was no explana-

CONTINUED PAGE TWO

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

People attending recent Club outings have been treated to the sight of swarms of migrating Monarch butterflies. Several interested Club members asked if I would do a short article on the Monarch butterfly for the YODELER. So here goes and from strictly a layman point of view.

The scientific name of the Monarch is Danaus plexippus. Its migratory movements occur in three phases - breeding range, overwintering range and spring migration.

The breeding range appears to be directly correlated with the presence of milkweed - host plant for egg and larva. One of the two most heavily concentrated breeding areas of the Monarch is the Salinas and San Joaquin Valley.

In the late summer and early fall the Monarch moves southward for the winter. In areas of cold nights and warm days the Monarch butterflies mass together in special roosting sites or "Butterfly trees." In areas of constant warmth, the Monarch roosts as individuals. The overwintering areas are located along the Gulf States from St. Petersburg, Florida, westward through

CONTINUED PAGE THREE

CONSERVATION NEWS

The State Power Commission has approved the application of the P.G. & E. for a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head, but there are a few strings to the permission. There must be a thorough study of ocean and bay currents which will affect the mixing of warm water discharged from the plant with the cold ocean. The public must have access to the beaches as much as possible. (Who decides what is possible?) A study of the present levels of radioactivity in the marine wildlife is required, to act as a measuring stick for future checks on the level. We hear that one of the judges had filed a supplementary opinion on the proposed road along the lagoon, but can find no confirmation or detail on this yet.

There is some good news from Mill Valley. Building and private development have threatened the access trails to the mountain for a long time. The Mill Valley Planning Commission on Nov. 13 added to the Master Plan of the city seven official access routes to hiking and riding trails. These are along the Old Railroad Grade, Glen Road, and from the Camino Alto area at East Blythdale starting at Project 17 Recreation Center. The last one is a young people's project, a riding trail to the mountain. Sierra Club members John R. Barnard, Fred Gunsky and Martin Friedman worked this out with the Parks and Recreation Commission, and as individuals, appeared with other Sierra Club members from Mill Valley before the Planning Commission to urge approval.

Corte Madera Creek, in its most attractive section from Kentfield through San Anselmo, appears to be doomed to a straight jacket of cement and chainlink fences. The Army Engineers have the money in hand and plans already complete. Apart from the ugliness of the usual flood-control channel there will be slow but serious demage to the fine trees along the creek, for they depend so much on the water which sinks into

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Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Adress all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

For Club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The "enterprise" rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
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SHORELINE HIGHWAY (Continued)

tion offered for this amazing increase. They state clearly that this route is not for trucks, as it will have seven per cent grades, and a maximum speed of 50 mph means an average of 35 mph will be usual. Additional highway connections between U.S. 101 and Point Reyes Station will take care of traffic in northern Marin. Are Bolinas and Stinson Beach really to grow twelve times bigger by 1980? An old fellow we met in Stinson Beach summed it up. "It doesn't make sense."

Exploring the Shoreline Highway on a fine Sunday afternoon, we found a perfect roadbed, wide enough for two cars at all points, high gear grades all the way, except in the deep canyons, flowers and native shrubs right to the edge of the blacktop. No chainlink fences to block the view of the wild coast, no traffic congestion, plenty of wide places to pull off and enjoy the view, and plenty of cars enjoying it.

We suggest that, if readers feel it does not make sense to spend millions on cutting this road out of the hillsides, they might let the Marin County Supervisors, and the State Highway Commission know what they think. Action should in any case be delayed until the State Legislature approves criteria for the new Scenic Roads classification.

—C.M.C.

EAST BAY DINNERS

Come one, come all
To the Festive Hall!

East Bay Dinner Group Christmas Party, December 12, 6 p.m., College Women's club Berkeley.

This is the night that Ethel Rose Horsefall has planned a gala evening for children, young and old. Come at 6 for visiting and light refreshments in the lounge. Dinner at 6:30. There will be special children's plates at $1.50, up to age 12. After dinner Elaine Koyker, ballad and folk singer from Sausalito, will entertain and lead the carol singing. Who knows, there may even be a fat, jolly little visitor in red. Join us and see.

All wear something suggestive of Christmas - a bit of gay jewelry, a tie, belt, or what have you. Bring a little gift, wrapped, with donor's name inside (25c-50c maximum). There will be the mixer for the party.

This is the one Sierra Club Christmas party which is especially nice for the children. Let's have a big turnout. Make your reservations now with Betty Ramseier.

—Patricia Bauer
Publicity Chairman

RED CROSS FIRST AID CLASSES

The Golden Gate Chapter of the American Red Cross has scheduled a number of First Aid classes, both Standard and Advanced, by their First Aid, Small Craft and Water Safety Services.

Those interested in the classes may call PRospect 6-1500 for further information.

SCHEDULE MAILING NIGHT DECEMBER 5th

The Winter Schedule for the Bay Chapter will be ready for mailing on Wednesday, December 5. Volunteers are needed for sorting and tying the Schedule at the Club Office at 7:30 p.m. that evening — pleasant work and visiting with friends — and a preview of the new outings for next year.

On Saturday, December 1, volunteers will be welcome for pasting address tapes on the Schedules.

Call Schedule Staff members to make arrangements for joining them on Saturday at the Club Office for a few hours' work, and come at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, if you can.

RIVER TOURING SECTION

The River Touring Section's annual Christmas party will take place December 14. Starting at 8 p.m. at the San Antonio Clubhouse, 1701 East 19th Street, Oakland, dancing will continue until midnight. Music will be provided for both social and folk dancing by a combination of tape, records, and FM radio. A balanced program is assured. Refreshments will be served. All Sierra clubbers and friends are cordially invited. Tickets are available from RTS executive committee members or at the door at $1.50 per person.

—Bob Hawley

WEST POINT HOSTESS SCHEDULE

*Dec. 1-2
David and Eleanor Kemp GR 4-1666
Any time

Dec. 8-9
Constance Karla DU 8-4245 evenings

Dec. 15-16
Avis Burchard WE 1-0739 anytime

Dec. 16
Sierra Club's Annual Carol Party, 1 p.m.
Everybody welcome.

Dec. 22-23
No hostess.

Dec. 29-30
Geraldine Hunter ED 2-4368 evenings

*Dec. 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
DeLuxe Dinner 6:30 p.m. and midnight supper, $5.00. For overnight, breakfast and lunch, add $2.50.
Reservations must be accompanied by remittance, payable to West Point Club and sent to Wanda Goody.
SK 1-4295 anytime

* Central Commissary

SPECIAL SALE TO CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

We have available at the Club Office a supply of last year's "Wilderness Notes" for $1.95. This consists of 25 cards (French-fold) of 4 subjects, with envelopes.

You will recall the lovely views - a joy at any price. Send your check to the SF Office for these cards.

DOLLARS FOR FOR HIGH SCHOOL ICE HOCKEY

Twenty-one boys at Berkeley High school are organizing an ice hockey team, both for fun and for Winter Olympics development. Stagg High in Stockton already has a team. Dollar contributions for protective equipment are urgently needed and will be acknowledged by the Berkeley High Ice Hockey Fund, c/o John Grove, 1505 Campus drive, Berkeley 8. In addition, on Wednesday December 5, 1962, between 5-12 p.m., Larry Blake's restaurant, his Rathskellar, and The Anchor, in Berkeley, will donate 10% of gross receipts to this fund.

CONSERVATION (Cont.)

the stream bed of the natural channel. In the open marshland of the estuary there are plans for a small boat harbor, park, pedestrian viewpoints and other amenities. There seems no place for the idea that a placid stream winding through a marsh might be beautiful in itself.

In the Sierra, the Forest Service has approved plans for the boundaries of the High Sierra Wilderness area, which increases and improves our classified wilderness area in this section. The Toiyabe Chapter has done splendid work on mapping these boundaries in cooperation with the Forest Service. The principal addition is a large area on the western side of the Sierra. The new line of the western boundary of the High Sierra Wilderness area now runs south from Tombstone Mountain, near Florence Lake, along the east side of Courtright and Wishon Reservoirs, to Castle Peak, Spanish Mountain, across Little Tehipite Valley to Junction Ridge. This is scenic country and fine for knapsacking.

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OAKLAND PHONE: OLYMPIC 3-6617

FALL COLOR IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

On the weekend of November 3-4, twenty-eight members and guests enjoyed two glorious days on a N.S.S. trip among the beauties of this wonderful valley. Under the leadership of Marion Avery, we gathered at the Museum at the Visitors' Center on Saturday at 2 o'clock. After viewing and studying the exhibits and listening to a lecture by the Ranger, we had time to visit Happy Isles and Vernal Fall. Unfortunately, because of very low water the Isles did not seem quite as happy as usual, and the Fall was anything but the majestic picture which it presents in the spring.

Camps were set up in Camp 15. Although there were many others camped in the area we had no difficulty in locating in a more or less compact group. At the campfire that evening, Dr. Harold C. Bryant gave us a most interesting talk on the early development of the interpretive program in the Parks. He was responsible for introducing the nature programs into Yosemite and other National Parks. His talk was most interesting.

Sunday morning we visited Mirror Lake and Yosemite Falls. But the crowning glory of the trip was the fall color. The Black Oaks were a beautiful bronze, the Maples brilliant yellow and the Dogwood just turning red. The Maple leaves falling from the trees in the brilliant sunshine were showers of gold.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a nature hike to Old Inspiration Point, where the view of the Valley is truly inspiring. The Domes, the Spires, the vertical cliffs - no matter how often seen - are always impressive, never tiresome.

The weather during the two days was ideal. Crisp air and sunshine, and clear skies full of stars at night, contributed to make this a perfect outing.

HAROLD SHARP

BUTTERFLIES (Cont.)

Mexico and up the Pacific Coast as far north as Monterey, California. They have been seen roosting in masses on trees at Stinson Beach and in Palo Alto. Butterfly Tree Lodge, Millar's Lodge and Washington Park in Pacific Grove are the areas of overwintering in masses in the Monterey Pines.

Spring migration varies from year to year. The Monarch Butterfly will be seen leaving Pacific Grove anywhere from late February to late March.

The development of a Monarch butterfly from egg to adult averages about 33 days. It takes about 7 days then to reach sexual maturity. Egg hatching takes about 4½ days, depending upon temperature. Larva development time averages about 15 days. Pupa formation time about 16 hours. Pupa to Imago (final adult) about 14 days. It is possible for 3-4 generations to be born during a breeding range. This range can extend from March to October, depending on the area. The original adults are dead by the time the 4th generation arrives; however, it is not unusual to see all stages of butterfly life in one area - the egg to the dying.

PATRICIA BAUER
rank amateur naturalist

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Skis, poles, Henke boots, size 5 narrow. Elizabeth Reynolds, LA 5-3818, evenings.

FOR SALE: Corner lot, 2 miles above Edelweiss, 2 miles below summit, Hwy. 50. Many trees, water all year, electricity, $1950. DU 8-9694

CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 8th

There may be a few tickets left for the Christmas Party. If you forgot to get yours, phone Elizabeth Perry at AN 1-6441.

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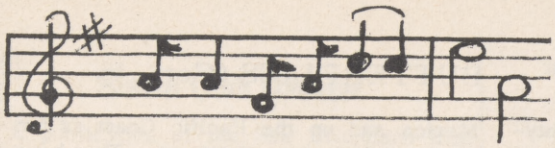

OH COME ALL YE CAROLERS!

It's that time again.
West Point Inn, Sunday, December 16. Hike Mill Valley to West Point, then — "Sing Along With Kitch."

Take the 9:20 a.m. bus to Mill Valley, arriving at 10:09. Tender feet may drive to West Point Inn. Bring lunch.

Kitch says, "It's been a topping event for several years now!!" Do come join us. Enjoy fun and fellowship at its best.

Leader: Kitch Kitchener - TU 5-2224
Ida Christensen - JO 7-5230

IN DEFENSE OF BILLY CANS

Our family of four just completed a most delightful Threshold Trip with Ann and Jack Santee. I was stunned (after packing in my own billy can, billy can grabber, magnesium gridder and spatula) to learn of the "no billy can fire rule." I participated in numerous High Trips from 1948 to 1956 and, to me, the billy can fires held some of the greatest charm of the trips.

How many of you have ever joined in a Cedric Wright foot bath after a day's hike; a cup of tea prepared by Ethel Rose Horsefall on the top of a pass or beside a stream? I have, and after 6 years, I still chuckle over the fun we shared. Did you ever spend the day fishing and have to cook your scanty catch in commissary over propane gas amidst the envious glances of five or six friends, then, climax what should be an enjoyable experience by departing through the smoke of the burning garbage in commissary to find a secluded rock on which you could perch to eat? We did in Threshold Camp.

I certainly would like more of an explanation than the two reasons given by the management, 1) the scarcity of wood, 2) the lack of experience of the member of the Threshold Trip.

A billy can fire takes but three handfuls of twigs and certainly new members of the trip are given lots of instruction and included could be the rules of handling a fire and cleaning up to remove all evidence of same.

I realize there has been a tremendous increase in the number of people using the wilderness areas and I have in the past and will continue to observe club rules. However, if we have completely lost our billy can fires, we have indeed given up one of the most intimate, enjoyable pasttimes of the trips. I would like to hear the Outing Committee's views of this subject and perhaps, too, some of our members will have something to say.

—Jean Maderis